

LOCAL TRAILS

by Marylou Stone

FOUNTAIN ROCK PARK - INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

It is winter and you want to get outside and get some fresh air. But you think it is really too cold to stay out for any length of time. Fountain Rock Park is just the place for a short hike that will also give you a chance to learn some of Frederick County's history.

The park can be reached from Frederick by taking route 15 north to Biggs Ford Road to Fountain Rock Road. The Interpretive Trail tells the story of the Quarry, Fountain Rock Kilns, and Stone Crusher which operated from 1872 to 1955.

The Interpretive Trail is only $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long, but it can be combined with the boardwalk and the small trail behind the Nature Center to give a total of one mile.

I hiked around this park on a cold crisp day and spotted Mourning Doves, Juncos, Blue Jays, Chickadees, and a Robin in the woods. In the quarry, there were too many Mallard Ducks to count. And on top of the kilns, I spotted a Red Tailed Hawk soaring higher and higher. In the winter, this spot provides a great view of the mountains.

Around the Nature Center, they have some of the trees identified for you. See if you can find the following: American Elm, Norway Maple, Red Mulberry, Hackberry, and Black Walnut. The park is open April 1 - September 30, 8am to 6pm and October 1 - March 31, 8am - 4pm.

